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Volume 26, No. 9, September 1994

CAROLINA COUNTRY

Official publication of Carolina Electric Cooperatives

How Hyde County blacks preserved school traditions

Pages 11-14

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CAROLINA Electric Cooperatives

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Volume 26, No. 9, September 1994

Official Publication
Carolina Electric Cooperatives

Carolina Electric Cooperatives is the network of electric cooperative organizations that provides reliable, safe and affordable electric service to 600,000 homes, farms and businesses in North Carolina. At the heart of Carolina Electric Cooperatives are the state's 28 Electric Membership Corporations, each member-owned, not-for-profit and overseen by a board of directors elected by the membership.

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CAROLINA COUNTRY

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On the Cover

Pilot Mountain is the backdrop for a Surry County tobacco field. (Photo by Michael E.C. Gery.) Inset: May Queen ceremony at Hyde County Training School. (From "Hyde County History," 1976.)

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Co-ops and Communities Trust Each Other

By Ted J. Holyfield

Over the years, many employees of the Surry-Yadkin Electric Membership Corporation have devoted their entire professional lives to serving the members of our cooperative.

They are people who dedicate themselves not only to providing reliable electric service to more than 20,200 households and businesses, but they also are concerned, active citizens in the communities we serve.

Many of our consumer-members knew Robert S. Burrus, the father of Surry-Yadkin EMC, who managed our co-op for 25 years after it was chartered in 1940. Many more know Kelly Hutchens, who gave 45 years to the co-op until he retired as manager in February 1993. Equally well known is Frank Brintle, also retired, who served 41 years with the co-op and as line superintendent knew every mile of our 3,100 miles of power line, and most everything in between. Bill Marion, member services director who retired in 1992, gave 44 years to the members of this co-op. And Carolyn Comer, who worked in plant operations and accounting, was here 47 years until she retired. I myself have devoted my professional career of 46 years to Surry-Yadkin EMC. And there are people with us today who have been here since the 1960s.

Members of our board of directors also have given many hours and many years to the working of this co-op. They, too, are people who care about the past, present and future of our communities.

I am proud to have known and worked beside all these people. Certainly there are others I haven't mentioned who have been with the co-op many years, and their work has been just as valuable. Also, I am pleased to work with the younger people who have come on board and demonstrate the same understanding, professionalism and courtesy. It is refreshing today to know that a business as important and complex as electric utility service can be composed of people who care as much about the members they serve as they do about the business success of the cooperative.

I mention all this to point out that local electric cooperatives are very close to their communities. We celebrate the successes of our towns and counties with as much enthusiasm as they themselves do. And like the communities and farms and businesses we serve, we also must work to do our best when faced with adverse conditions. In a service area like ours —the foothills and rural areas of Surry and Yadkin counties, and parts of Wilkes, Stokes and Forsyth counties— any adverse conditions in remote and difficult terrain can make work very challenging.

Last year, Surry-Yadkin EMC faced some of the worst storms we have seen in many years. In December, a harsh winter storm knocked out our service for days, in some places. And the previous March, we were hit with a late winter blizzard that caused similar outages. Many members were as annoyed and frustrated as we were at the problems caused by those storms.

Since then we have put our shoulder to the wheel and concentrated on making improvements to our system in various areas. All the while, our focus is on meeting the expectations for service that our members deserve.

As we approach our annual meeting in October, I can truly report that we have come a long way. It isn't every business —not even every electric co-op — that can report such progress.

- We added to our work plan this year an extra 40 miles of power line to be upgraded from a copper to an aluminum alloy. This line will have much better conductivity to meet an increasing load and will be much more resistant to harsh weather. We will be changing out sections of old wire each year until the entire system is converted.
- We increased our budget by more than one-third for maintaining right-of-way areas under power lines. This will help keep trees and limbs from knockin out power lines during storms. The program includes contracts with four crews to help us with work that often requires reaching rough areas. Sometimes we mu use a bulldozer to pull trucks within reach of our poles.
- We are upgrading five of 17 substations with safer, more reliable equipmer and improving power transformers at three of them to meet heavier load requirements.
- We have stepped up our pole inspec tion program so that every pole will be inspected at least every six years.
- We are installing a new telephone reporting system that members should like. They will be able to call a number a any time and get a response. Reports of power outages will be recorded immediately so that we can direct our response crews in the most effective manner. The system will even give callers a message about what outages have been reported And you don't even have to use a touch tone phone for this system to work.
- And we have been working all alon with our state office power supplier to ensure that all of Carolina Electric Coo eratives statewide will maintain stable rates in the foreseeable future.

I believe that a cooperative can conduct business in a way that is professio and up-to-date, yet careful and persona with the people it serves. We are alway mindful that we live and work every da among our members, and that we are here to serve them in the most moderr and effective way possible. The reason why so many people have given their life's work to Surry-Yadkin EMC over 5 years is that they value the trust the members place in their cooperative.

Ted J. Holyfield is general manager of Surry-Yadkin Electric Membership Corpor tion, Dobson.

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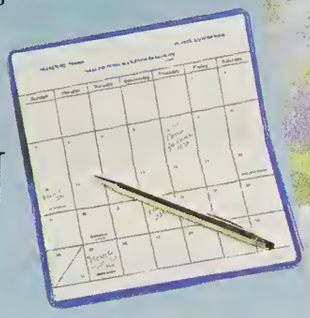

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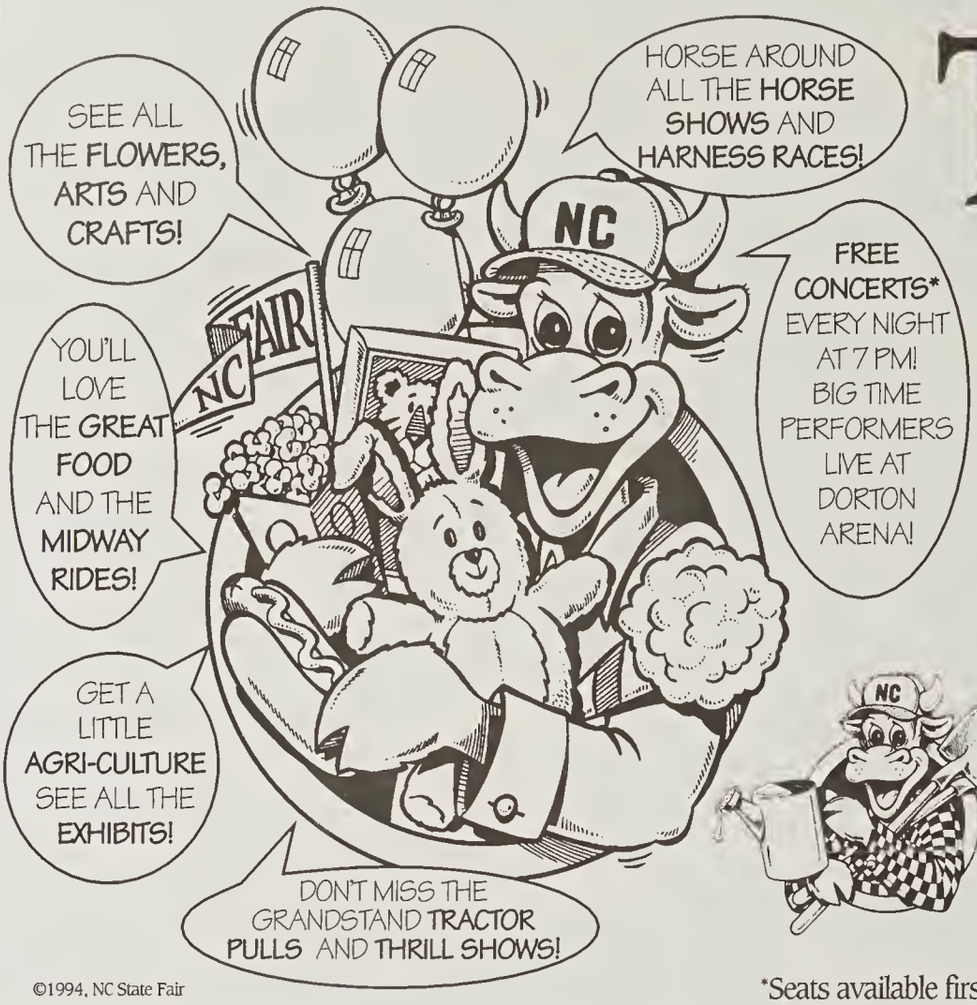

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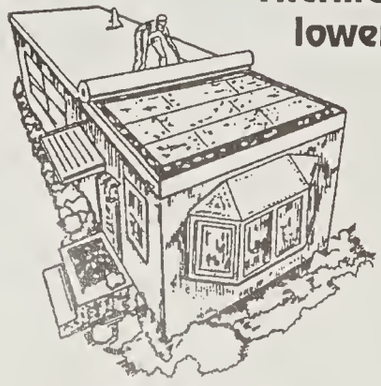

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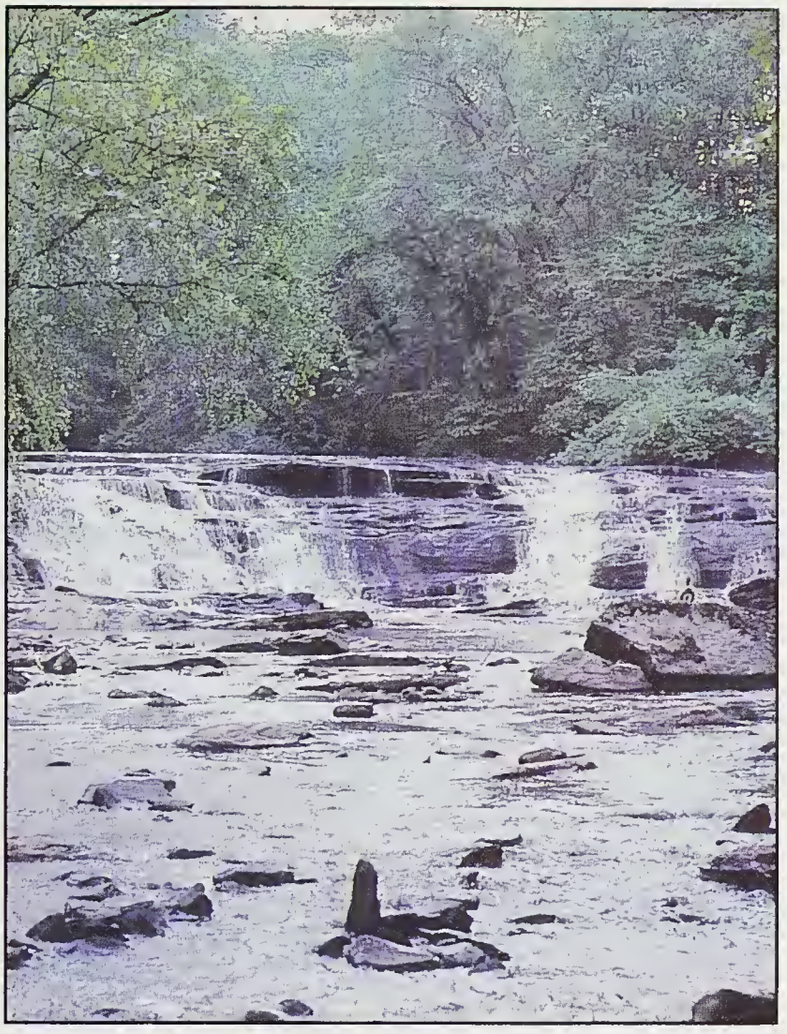
Bountiful farms and the Yadkin River (right) course through Surry and Yadkin counties.



Scenes of Surry and Yadkin

By Michael E.C. Gery

Richmond Mumford Pearson, a prominent justice of the state Supreme Court, lived in north Yadkin County and presided at his secluded law school there from 1848 until he died in 1878. He would discuss cases and guide legal arguments with small groups of students as they sauntered through the woods, fished the Yadkin River, and gathered for dinner at his handsome brick residence, "Richmond Hill." Pearson said he educated more than 1,000 students at his cloistered academy.

In 1875, Pearson wrote, "If a man, instead of contenting himself with the quiet and comfort of a country residence, chooses to live in a town, he must take the inconvenience of noise, dust, flies, rats, smoke, soot and cinders."

There is no such inconvenience in rural Yadkin County today, nor across the river in the Surry County countryside. The broad, auburn Yadkin River flows from the Blue Ridge Mountains into this northern piedmont, accepting the streams of the Roaring, Mitchell, Fisher, Tanyard, Ararat and Forbush creeks. Rich fields of tobacco and corn spread toward hillsides where cattle graze. Farmers tend long poultry houses and big tobacco barns that yield millions of pounds of bright leaf in late summer.

Fisher's Peak rises 3,600 feet in the west, and in the east, Pilot Mountain, the rock remnant of an ancient highland, juts out 1,500 feet above the plateau around it.

Even the largest city of the region, Mount Airy, is as clean and refreshing as its name. Andy Griffith grew up here, and the town was the inspiration for his TV town of "Mayberry," where they say, "But don't the trees seem nice and full."

"But don't the trees seem nice and full."

It is a place of quiet productivity. Neat lawns and gardens surround rural homes everywhere. Tobacco plants stand uniformly in long, straight rows. The jewels of small communities are the churches —mainly Baptist, Methodist and Quaker— with names like Mount View, Pilot View, Island Ford, Shady Grove and Deep Creek. An orderliness shows in the big, sprawling factory buildings of Chatham Manufacturing in Elkin (upholstery fabric), Unifi in Yadkinville (textured yarn), Unifi Spun Yarn in Boonville (cotton fabric), Sara Lee Hosiery in Yadkinville, and Cross Creek Apparel in Mount Airy (knit shirts), among others.

In his 1859 book, "Fisher's River Scenes and Characters, by 'Skitt' who was raised thar," Hardin "Skitt" Taliaferro describes the people who settled his region between 1770 and 1780 as "a healthy, hardy, honest, uneducated set of pioneers" who "came mostly from Virginia, and aportion of them from the middle and lower parts of North Carolina, and a few from other sections — a sufficient number from all parts to make a singular and pleasing variety. The emigrants from Virginia furnished exceptions to the general claims of Virginians, most of whom claim to belong to the 'first families;' but it was honor enough for them that they came from 'Fudginny.'"

Carolina Country is proud to reach more than 20,000 households and businesses in Surry and Yadkin counties and nearby communities in Wilkes, Stokes and Forsyth counties. We present here vignettes of the area for the rest of our readers across North Carolina.

Life and Times in the Northern Piedmont

From his own place, Joe Pendry points out the "home place."

Secretary of the Electric Co-op

Joe Pendry's family goes way back in Yadkin County. His great-grandfather was among the several Pendrys listed on Yadkin County's Civil War roster, and a photograph of him hangs in Joe Pendry's house.

Pendrys have been longtime Yadkin farmers. "I never did work at public work," Joe Pendry said this summer, referring to jobs in local manufacturing industries. "I like to do what I want. If somebody dies, I want to go to the funeral, whenever it is. At public work, you might not get to go when you want to."

At 83, Joe Pendry still works on the 160 acres of the family farm along Pendry Road outside of Boonville and on another 40 acres of leased land. He turned over the farm itself to his son and ventured into the excavating and grading business a few years ago. His brother is on the "home place" dairy farm down Pendry Road.

He knows every stretch of ground for miles around his place: "I once knew every tree along this part of the Yadkin River." Several times he has made his way out of a field in pitch-black darkness after haying all night.

A neighbor who once saw him set out to work at dawn and come home after dark told him, "Joe, you won't live past 40." But stamina is built into him. He remembers as a boy helping make a family health tonic from time to time: corn whiskey. The adults would swallow a dram just about every morning to stay healthy, hardy and honest. Six or seven gallons would last them two years.

As a schoolboy here near Richmond Hill, he kept his eye on the girl Opal, five years younger than he. He would see her in church, too. When Joe was 23 and farming with his father and brothers, h married Opal. It was 60 years ago this December.

A few years after he married, Joe learned from Robert Burrus across the river about the electrification cooperative that had formed for the region. It cost $5 to join, and you could help erect poles and run electric wire to your farm.

"I wanted lights," Joe said, "so I helped work it up. You had to get so many signers. And there wasn't a lot of money around in those days, so I paid the five dollars for a lot of them just so they could get lights. I paid some of their power bills back then, too. I always did work day and night, anyway, to get extra."

Joe Pendry was the youngest member of the board of directors of Surry-Yadkin Electric Membership Corporation when it was chartered in July 1940 and has remained on the board ever since. He has been board secretary a long time and has official duties in that capacity. One evening this summer, however, when Surry-Yadkin's general manager Ted Holyfield went out to see secretary Pendry to ask him to sign some papers, Joe was working so far down in a field that Ted told Opal he would return some other time.

Edwards-Franklin House

The main house of a 1799 plantation that included 2,330 acres along Fisher River has been restored as a museum sinc 1973 by the Surry County Historical Society. The Sonker Fes tival in October serves real sonkers (fruit pies) and old-time music.

Rockford Historic District

Layed out as the first seat of Surry County in 1789, Rockford was the site of a ferry, railroad depot, hotels and court activity Andrew Jackson practiced law here for a short time. Several buildings remain. The interesting Low Water Bridge spans Yadkin River from Rockford to Yadkin County.

Home of the legendary pork chop sandwich in Mount Airy.

Mount Airy

The city of 7,600 residents is sophisticated and well organized. In June, a delegation of 50 citizens were in Oakland, Calif. to support Mount Airy's successful application as an "All-American City," one of only 10 chosen nationwide. Judges were impressed by three recent projects: the Garden of Hope activities for youths in a public housing project, the Surry Medical Ministries Clinic offering free and reduced-cost health care, and downtown revitalization work including a theater, parking, and an emerging regional history museum.

A new Visitor Center in the North Main St. historic district presents an overview of the area and has a room of Andy Griffith memorabilia. A tour map describes 34 historic buildings and cultural sites. Call (910) 789-4636.

Downtown attractions include Floyd's Barber Shop and Snappy Lunch of "Mayberry" fame, both open for business and visitors. The Andy Griffith Playhouse theater and arts center is near the city hall and library.

The elegant, light granite of many of the buildings comes from the world's largest open-faced quarry located just outside town.

Major festivals come this fall: Mayberry Days (Sept. 22-24) features nostalgic events related to the TV show, plus recreation, food, theater, music and The Andy Griffith Show Rerun Watchers Club annual meeting. The 28th annual Autumn Leaves Festival (Oct. 14-16) opens downtown to a display of country food, fashion and fun, lately attended by more than 200,000 people.

Pilot Mountain State Park

Below the amazing Pilot Mountain is a 3,768-acre park with hiking trails, picnic areas, campsites, bridle trails and wondrous views. The Yadkin River Islands park along the Yadkin River is part of it. Nature programs are scheduled throughout the year. Call (910) 325-2355.

Eng and Chang Bunker

Born in 1811 in Siam (Thailand), joined at the front midsection, the twin brothers were brought to the U.S. in 1829, gained citizenship, toured in circus shows, made money, and met James Calloway of Wilkesboro in New York in 1837. They visited the area with Calloway and liked it. They opened a general store in Traphill, Wilkes County, and fell in love with the Yates sisters and married them. In 1846, the families moved to White Plains in Surry County, where they built a successful farm and were generous in the community. The farm declined after the Civil War. Chang drank heavily in later life and the twins grew increasingly disaffected. Chang died Jan. 17, 1874, and Eng died later the same day. They are buried in White Plains Baptist Church Cemetery.

Surry Community College

The college is on a contemporary campus in Dobson and offers a two-year academic curriculum, plus programs in nursing, continuing education and extension programs in Yadkin County.

Westfield

Site of the first church in Surry County, the 1760 "western field" was a retreat of the Guilford County Quakers.

Horne Creek Living Historical Farm

The state's newest Historic Site opened full-time in 1991. It is a restoration of the 100-acre Hauser (pronounced HOO-zer) family farm near the Shoals community, southeast Surry County. The mission is to recreate faithfully the rural farm life of the area in the 1900-1910 period. The big farmhouse that housed Thomas and Charlotte Hauser, their 12 children and hired hands, is being restored to the period. At present, staff and volunteers are hand-cutting shingles for a new roof. Staff performs and teaches activities just as people here would have done a century ago — cultivating the gardens and orchards, preparing tobacco, working with animals, and attending to household activities such as preserving foods and making soap, tools and clothing. Research is underway to interpret the life of the Sawyers family, free African-Americans who lived nearby and worked with the Hausers.

Grape arbor below the Hauser homestead.

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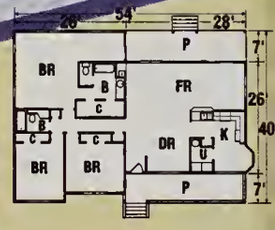

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The Hyde County School Boycott, 1968-69

"We built that school up there"

Based on the book "Along Freedom Road," by David S. Cecelski
Adaptation by Michael E.C. Gery, in consultation with the author

When the Hyde County school term opened on Sept. 4, 1968, most black children in Hyde County did not attend classes. Of more than 800 black students in the county, only about 40 went to school that day.

The African-American community of Hyde County had egun a protest that would extend through the school year nd longer. It would extend beyond eastern North Carolina, too.

The Hyde County school boycott was one of the most nazing crusades in the history of North Carolina public edu- ition. Although it is not well known today, even in North arolina, the boycott may have been the single most sustained rotest of the 1960s American civil rights movement. It also as among the most successful.

Hyde County's black community, for "once in our life- mes," protested against a threat to their local culture — the osing of all-black schools — and achieved a strength of will nd character no one, anywhere, knew existed. Their version f a 1960s-style rotest turned inds permanently. bove all, in the nd, stood the oung people who stained the move- ent and still rengthen Hyde ounty today.

Mainland Hyde ounty is one of ne most peaceful laces in North arolina. Tall asses sway in oad salt marshes at spread toward ne Pamlico Sound. ld fishing boats ug out of Swan uarter, Engelhard nd Rose Bay to ork the sound for abs. Vast inland farms and timber stands yield generous ops. More than 130,000 swans, geese and ducks settle here in inter, attracted by the farms and Lake Mattamuskeet, the ate's largest natural lake, splayed over 40,000 acres of Hyde ounty's belly.

Sometimes, in some places, you can imagine that the look nd life of Hyde County have been still for 100 years.

But the story of the 1968-69 school boycott, told by David Cecelski in his new book, "Along Freedom Road," shows otherwise. In a thorough and engaging historical narrative, Cecelski recounts a sudden, forcible awakening of black and white societies in Hyde County in the latter 1960s.

It was a time when all of North Carolina's communities struggled to desegregate their schools. Hyde County was known then as isolated, poor and "backward." The schools where black students attended certainly were isolated and poor, but they were not backward. To the teachers, parents, students and alumni, those schools built virtually by hand, were gems.

Black tradition meets desegregation

Only two decades after the Civil War, black Hyde Countians had already built 20 elementary schools. In the 1940s there were about 40 such schools in small villages such as Slocumb, Beulah, Nebraska, California, St. Lydia and Sladesville. The citizens often cleared land themselves, built the schools and paid for teachers and supplies not adequately funded by state and county government. Some schools were housed in village churches. And like the churches, the schools also served as gathering places for dances, parties and other social meetings.

"Hyde County History," 1976

The Hyde County Training School faculty. Professor O.A. Peay is seated fourth from left.

In 1916, Rhoda Warren, the county's first "Negro supervisor," voiced the desire for a secondary school. At that time, there were no four-year public high schools for blacks anywhere in the state. Finally in 1921, black citizens expanded the Sladesville Graded School and renamed it Hyde County Training School for nine grades of students. In 1934, HCTS had 12 grades. The county funded the school, but not nearly at the

level of Hyde's white high schools at Swan Quarter and Engelhard. Because of Sladesville's remote location, many black children boarded nearby in order to attend the high school.

Oscar A. Peay was principal of that school from 1930 until 1961. He was a beloved mentor who instilled discipline, compassion and aspiration in teachers and young people so deeply that the school's alumni harbor an ironclad devotion for their Hyde County education. It was an education that enveloped all that the local community represented —its religion, its caring for the elderly, its labor in the crabhouses, kitchens and farms, and its neighborliness.

After Peay died, the local school board in 1963 granted black citizens' request to rename Hyde County Training School the O.A. Peay School. By that time the school was located in Job's Corner, just outside Swan Quarter, in a school building erected by the county in 1953 during a period of school consolidation. Parents donated land for the school at Job's Corner, and with the alumni association they also raised funds for the playground, gymnasium, laboratories and cafeteria. During the latter 1950s, Hyde and other school systems significantly improved school facilities to accommodate escalating pressure to equalize educational opportunities between whites and blacks. Because the 1954 U.S. Supreme Court ruling in Brown vs. Board of Education and the 1964 Civil Rights Act required government to end racial segregation in public schools, Hyde knew that sooner or later blacks and white would have to attend school together.

"Hyde County History," 1976

The Student Planning Committee and three advisers who ushered in classroom integration at Mattamuskeet School in 1970-71.

In 1965, the all-white Hyde school board announced its federally-mandated desegregation plan. Students could attend any of the mainland county schools of their choice. There were three, each of them 12-grade schools: the new, centrally located, all-white Mattamuskeet school, and the two all-black schools, Davis School in Engelhard and O.A. Peay in Swan Quarter. Faculties gradually would be integrated, too, according to the plan.

But voluntary integration did not occur. In 1967, Hyde County reported the lowest proportion of integration among all schools in North Carolina. For one thing, black students did not feel comfortable at Mattamuskeet, even though parents urged them to attend that school. A Mattamuskeet teacher said black students "felt by themselves, like there was no one they could look up to."

Patience and tolerance wore thin. Johnnie Midgette, a respected African-American barber whose shop was patronized by white men, lost all his customers after he sent his daughter to the Mattamuskeet school. Whites who at first continued to visit Midgette's barber shop were harassed by the Ku Klux Klan.

The all-white school board believed that blacks preferred segregated schools. In the words of the board's attorney, "They don't like the white folks' ways, and they do not want the white folks interfering with their system . . . [just as] they do not want to go to our churches". Despite this argument, the federal government soon forced Hyde County to alter its plan or face withdrawal of funds and a court order. So the board over a 2-year period devised a plan that would place all Hyde County students into an expanded Mattamuskeet School and convert the Peay and Davis schools to other uses.

The plan in 1968 would have moved 852 students from the black schools into Mattamuskeet, which already was crowded with 514 students. The federal Department of Health, Education and Welfare (HEW) did not accept the plan and suggested using Davis and Peay as integrated elementary schools. But Hyde County officials resisted that idea.

By the beginning of the 1968 school year, white Hyde officials set forth another plan: to gradually matriculate all students into Mattamuskeet, beginning with the lower grades, and to close the black schools three years later. Because it meant desegregation, HEW accepted the plan. Despite an outcry from black citizens, none of whom had been consulted, HEW claimed no authority to order that the black schools remain open.

The Hyde County school board apparently did not realize, or did not believe, that the American civil rights movement, swollen and propelled by the assassination of Martin Luther King Jr. in April of that year, would ever reach the swamps and backwaters of their county.

"This is what we want."

When Golden Frinks first set foot in Hyde County in the summer of 1968, he saw what he thought was a black community stuck in the Jim Crow era. Frinks, an Edenton activist wearing an Afro hairstyle and gold chains, was a leading civil rights campaigner in eastern North Carolina. He was the N.C. field director of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference co-founded by Martin Luther King Jr., summoned to Swan Quarter by a committee of local blacks who felt betrayed by an all-white school board. David Cecelski describes Frinks' meeting at Job's Chapel Baptist Church on a Saturday in late August.

After a benediction, the group explained to Frinks their feelings about the threat to Peay and Davis. Their point of view was clear: "*We* built that school up there," they told him; "*they* want to take it." The black leaders wanted Frinks to give them some direction and the support of the SCLC. However, Frinks thought they

expected miracles . . . After listening to Frinks endeavor to lower their expectations, the elderly woman in front of him rose slowly to her feet aided by the person next to her. Letha Selby was 78 years old and commanded respect in Hyde County. Ms. Letha, as she was known, had taught in local black schools for more than 40 years. Her high standards and unshakable will were legendary among her former students, who represented a significant part of the black adult population in 1968. . . . The church sat silent before her.

Pointing her cane directly at Frinks, Letha Selby admonished him angrily. "Listen here," she told him, "don't come down here telling us what we cannot do." She did not have to look behind her to know that she spoke for everyone in the church. "You tell us what you want us to do so that we will get our schools back," she demanded. "That is what we want."

Having sobered Frinks, the black leaders resolved to reconvene four days later to set strategy.

The morning after the Job's Chapel meeting, most who had attended saw that their mailboxes had been vandalized during the night. In church services that day, and in the crabhouses and farms and neighborhoods the next day, word spread urgently of the upcoming meeting. An overflow crowd at Mt. Pilgrim Disciples of Christ Church in Engelhard on Wednesday night, Aug. 29, heard Golden Frinks pledge SCLC support for a protest. The black citizens, led by their own Committee of 14, vowed not to send their children to school when the term opened Sept. 4 until the Hyde school board agreed to keep open the Peay and Davis schools, integrated or not.

After church services on Sunday, Sept. 2, some 1,500 people marched into the county seat at Swan Quarter. Golden Frinks could not believe so many black people lived in Hyde County. White citizens, too, were amazed and worried at the sight of such a demonstration with its protest songs and chants. Many of the whites knew little about the closing of Peay and Davis, and may have opposed the idea anyway.

When the term began Sept. 4, less than 40 of more than 800 black students showed up at the three Hyde County schools. In the ensuing weeks, the boycott held. On most afternoons, between 150 and 200 people demonstrated at the Swan Quarter courthouse, and sometimes in Engelhard. They also marched through the countryside in Scranton, New Holland, Lake Landing and Fairfield. They held meetings in churches nearly every night.

A new spirit of determination and hope coursed through the rural churches, the social groups, and the far-flung black hamlets of Hyde County. Students, parents, grandparents and neighbors were involved in strategy sessions, fund-raisers and the marches themselves.

Hyde County was by no means alone in exercising civil disobedience in the 1960s against decades of Jim Crow repression. Cecelski asserts that civil rights action in North Carolina's Black Belt communities from Greensboro to Halifax to Wilmington indeed comprise "the most widespread and significant mass movement in the state's history." Yet Hyde County's insistence on preserving the legacy of its black schools stands out for its nearly universal community support and longevity in a remote area where fishing blackwater creeks for round-robin had been more entertaining than television.

Opening a two-way street

The News & Observer Collection, N.C. Division of Archives & History.

One of the daily protest marches to Swan Quarter, November 1968.

On Sept. 17, the county sheriff evicted protesters who had briefly occupied the Swan Quarter courthouse. Some tried to re-enter. A state trooper fired Mace over their heads and they left. But outrage followed — and so did publicity. The demonstrations grew larger and acrimonious. At one, tear gas was used on a crowd of teenagers and young children.

Building occupations and marches continued through the fall. State and county police were a daily presence now. In November, a girl was injured when she fell from a second story courthouse window during an occupation. Later, police arrested six boys for impeding traffic. Boycott organizers encouraged nonviolent protests and arrests, hoping to force negotiations. Soon, the county jail was full, and the sheriff sent children to prisons 60 to 90 miles away in Greenville, Washington, Plymouth, Williamston, Windsor and Tarboro.

Sheriff Charlie Cahoon tried hard to keep peace. "On occasion," Cecelski writes, "the sheriff even allowed arrested demonstrators to leave jail to attend mass meetings at night." He privately blamed the school authorities for their inflexible and racist stance. Many white citizens, in fact, simply wanted the boycott to end.

By late December, the protesters had grown weary. Though the boycott remained strong, nearly half the black high school students were in jail. Ralph Abernathy, SCLC's national president, had visited Hyde County in late November, but failed to

offer greater financial support or national exposure. During the winter holidays, more than 100 protesters, mostly teenagers, were in jail.

Taking a cue from that year's Poor Peoples March on Washington, the boycotters decided to send a message to their own state capital. They marched twice on Raleigh, once in February and again in April. The February march lasted six days, gaining in numbers as it proceeded along Highway 264 by bus and car, then on foot in the towns. In Raleigh, downtown streets were closed as more than 600 marchers paraded to the capitol to hear a speech by SCLC executive vice president Andrew Young. Superintendent of Public Instruction Craig Phillips, in concurrence with Gov. Robert Scott, told the organizers that he would support a temporary return to the "freedom of choice" policy initially proposed by the Hyde school board and now embraced by the boycotters, and that the black community should be involved in future desegregation planning.

Hyde school officials continued to resist such black involvement, however, and the second march proceeded as planned, this time "from the Mountain Top to the Valley," 250 miles from Asheville to Raleigh. But tragedy struck before the march began. On March 24, two teenage girls from the Slocumb community, Clara Beckwith and Lucy Howard, died in a car crash in Wilson. They had been on their way home from organizing student support in Charlotte. Cecelski writes, "Years later many people remembered the accident and the subsequent weeks of mourning more vividly that any other moments during the school boycott."

In early April, they marched through mountain towns, past textile mills and furniture factories, past a Klan ambush in Concord, and into Raleigh. The capital city this time was reeling from its own recent and violent demonstrations, and most of the Hyde County group soon returned home.

As the school year ended in June 1969, the Hyde County boycott remained intact. During the previous nine months, as their own teachers and schoolworkers anguished through the term, students had assumed responsibilities for sustaining the protest. Many attended "movement schools" set up in churches where retired teachers, college students and others conducted classes. Some reluctantly returned to Davis or Peay. But by summer, they all were eager to cool off and try to make satisfactory arrangements for the 1969-70 term.

David Cecelski convincingly spells out how the boycott had shocked Hyde County into a new direction toward racial understanding. "There could be no retreat into disenfranchisement and segregation, no return to black deference and powerlessness," he writes.

Hyde County was in that mood on July 4, 1969. That night a sniper fired two shots into a car carrying four young blacks by a Ku Klux Klan meeting in Middletown, near Engelhard. When Sheriff Cahoon and state troopers arrived at the scene, they found approximately 125 blacks and 80 Klansmen. A standoff seethed for two hours as police strained to keep the groups apart. Then, as Klansmen set fire to a cross, the shooting began. The Klan used high-powered rifles and handguns, the blacks fired hunting rifles and shotguns. "It was like a war," recalled a police officer. Police stormed the hall, and the shootout ceased. Several people were hurt, though none seriously. Seventeen Klansmen and two dozen blacks were arrested.

Cecelski writes, "Though not the death knell for the local Ku Klux Klan, the Middletown confrontation marked its retreat back into the shadows. The era of open-air KKK rallies, public toleration, and racist violence with impunity had ended."

With considerable involvement of the Scott administration, the Hyde School board reopened desegregation planning that summer and heard officially from the boycott leaders. Two plans emerged. One would close the Peay and Davis schools and build a $500,000 addition to the Mattamuskeet school to accommodate all students K-12. The other, supported by blacks, would convert Peay and Davis to elementary schools and make Mattamuskeet a six-grade high school. Because the first plan would have required a favorable vote on a bond issue at the November election, the school board would let the voters decide.

As the school term commenced, blacks agreed to postpone a boycott until the election. On November 5, Hyde County voters decided by a 4-to-1 margin against the massive expansion of Mattamuskeet School. The Peay and Davis schools would remain open. The goal of the boycott was realized.

A biracial planning committee of students was formed to help create the new system. That committee is credited not only with smoothing the opening of classrooms to both blacks and whites, but also with preserving many of the black school traditions that had been held so dear. Similar agreements were reached regarding the staffing of the three schools.

Concluding his book, Cecelski writes, "The preservation of Peay and Davis meant that school desegregation would not be a one-way street in Hyde County . . . The merger of the student bodies at O.A. Peay, Davis, and Mattamuskeet would inevitably change the black school experience, but the process did not have to subvert a rich educational heritage or its sustaining role in black culture. Indeed, students would now have the chance to learn from the best in both school traditions. These were, in the end, the ultimate success of the Hyde County School boycott."

David Cecelski is a historian at the Institute for Southern Studies in Durham. A Craven County native, he received his B.A. at Duke University and his doctorate at Harvard University. He is completing "A World of Fisher Folks," a history of maritime North Carolina in the 19th century. He is a member of Carteret-Craven Electric Cooperative.

"Along Freedom Road: Hyde County, North Carolina and the Fate of Black Schools in the South," by David S. Cecelski, was published in 1994 by the University of North Carolina Press. The book is 235 pages, with photographs, maps, notes, bibliography and index. It is available in bookstores (in Hyde County, see Marjorie Selby) or from the publisher. For more information, contact University of North Carolina Press, P.O. Box 2288,Chapel Hill, N.C. 27515-2288. (800) 848-6224.

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North Carolina news.

Gordon McDaniel

Bernice Tucker, who lives near Columbus in Polk County, had an unusually colorful and fragrant garden this year. She gives credit to Hank Smith, author of "Hank's Gardening Guide" in Carolina Country, whose advice she follows regularly. She is a member of Rutherford Electric Membership Corporation.

Pumpkin Day in Pender County

The second annual Pumpkin Day will be held Oct. 1 at the depot on Courthouse Avenue in Burgaw. Proceeds from the sale of pumpkins to area merchants and residents will go to benefit the improvement of downtown Burgaw. Proceeds from last year's successful festival will help pay for trees to be planted up and down Courthouse Avenue in downtown Burgaw in November of this year. Area lights were installed around the colonial courthouse, and a statue of General Pender was moved to the renovated plaza downtown.

Proceeds from this year's festival will be used to purchase more trees and benches for the downtown area and also to restore and preserve the historic depot in Burgaw. This depot is one of only two pre-Civil War depots.

This family day is also marked with several special events including a barbecue dinner and entertainment throughout the day. Contact Mr. or Mrs. William C. James, (910) 259-4517 or (910) 259-6222.

State Fair will be Oct. 14-23

The 127th N.C. State Fair is set for Oct. 14-23 at the State Fairgrounds in Raleigh. More than 665,000 people attended the 1993 fair. A poll conducted of fairgoers found that food is the fair's biggest draw, followed by the agricultural displays and events, and the midway. "This shows that there is something for everyone," says Jim Graham, commissioner of the Department of Agriculture, which manages the fair.

Pride in agriculture always has been the theme. Graham pointed out recently that agriculture provided 30 percent of the state's $149 billion income last year.

Of 22,000 fair exhibits, most are farm-related, from country hams to sweet potatoes, and flowers to hogs.

Young female and male farmer awards will be presented again this year, sponsored by the N.C. Farm Bureau Federation and the N.C. Department of Agriculture.

On the midway, three new rides are expected: Starship 2000, a fast, howling experience; Musik-Express, a brightly colored ride that entertains passengers with musical trends; and King's Circus, a 4-story fun house.

The State Fair Flower and Garden Show again will be sponsored by the Men's Garden Club of Wake County and will feature cut flowers, potted plants, dried arrangements, cacti and ferns.

An art and photography exhibit includes competition for the best North Carolina scene, best state fair scene and best agricultural scene.

And live entertainment will take place nightly in the 9,000-seat Dorton Arena. Performances are usually free and last about an hour.

Gas garden equipment pollutes the air

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency reports that running common gas-powered home landscaping equipment creates far more pollution than driving a new car.

In announcing new pollution controls for certain gas-powered garden tools, the EPA reported the following equivalents:

- *Running a gas-powered lawn mower for an hour* creates as much pollution as driving a new car for 11½ hours.
- *Running a gas-powered leaf blower for an hour* pollutes as much as 34 hours of driving.
- *Running a gas-powered chain saw for an hour* pollutes as much as 63 hours of driving.
- *Running a gas-powered weed trimmer for an hour* pollutes as much as 21 hours of driving.

13 teens attend cooperative institute

North Carolina sent 13 teenagers to Washington D.C. in July to attend the 66th annual National Institute on Cooperative Education. The institute is the largest annual education event devoted to cooperatives. More than 225 teens attended from throughout the U.S.

The youths set up a computer-simulated cooperative, as well as actual co-ops that sold Candy-grams, bouquets, sodas, T-shirts, co-op hats and mini-massages.

One of the main speakers was former Miss North Carolina, Jeanne Swanner Robertson, who received a grand ovation from the Tar Heel delegation.

Dan Erwin of Beaufort placed second in the institute's essay contest.

Representing North Carolina were the following: Ashley Spell of Autryville, Dan Erwin of Beaufort, Derek Edwards of Sparta, Heather Hammaker of Winston-Salem, Connie Boggs of Graham, Sharon Jenette of Mt. Olive, Laura Bethea of Lumberton, Leigh Williams of Lenoir, Larry Chappell of Jonesville, Cheryl Webb of Windsor, Micky Harris of Traphill, Shane Norris of Benson, and Jason Bedsaul of Dobson.

Proud of your historic downtown?

America's best revitalized historic downtowns and traditional neighborhood commercial districts will be recognized by a new national awards program sponsored by the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

The Great American Main Street Award will cite five communities each year that demonstrate active public and private participation in their revitalization process, community support, economic success and adaptive use and preservation of key historic downtown buildings. The prize is $5,000 for each community chosen.

In addition to the National Trust, the Edward D. Jones & Co. stock brokerage is backing the program.

Applications are due Nov. 15. For more information, contact the National Main Street Center in Washington, D.C. at (800) 441-2018.

Carolina venison for the hungry

A new organization of deer hunters and state agencies is working to provide high-quality venison to North Carolina people in need of food.

North Carolina Hunters for the Hungry accepts legally harvested white-tailed deer. The venison is processed at state-inspected facilities and distributed to needy people through food banks.

Deer must be tagged and reported according to state rules, and freshly clean and dressed. Four designated processing facilities will accept the deer, and a donor card given upon its acceptance. Processors will be paid by N.C. Hunters for the Hungry.

Deer can be delivered to Country Corner Grocery in Wake Forest, Johnny Stephens Meat Processing in Wendell, Community Meat Center in Jacksonville, and Lloyd's Custom Meat in Belhaven.

For more information, contact the processing facilities or N.C. Hunters for the Hungry, P.O. Box 10502, Raleigh, N.C. 27605.

Bone marrow saves sickle cell patient

The state's first bone marrow transplant has freed a 13-year-old boy from sickle cell disease. Except for medications and occasional clinic visits, Shannon Saunders of Chapel Hill is living a normal life.

The transplant was performed by a team at the University of North Carolina Hospitals.

Saunders is one of about 20 patients in the nation to have received a bone marrow transplant for sickle cell disease, reports UNC Hospitals.

In the U.S., the inherited blood disorder affects mostly blacks. Patients produce abnormal forms of hemoglobin, the protein in red blood cells that carries oxygen throughout the body. Small blood vessels become clogged, and the painful occlusions can lead to stroke, damage to bones and internal organs, and life-threatening infections.

Young Saunders had been hospitalized four to six times a year from age 4 and suffered a stroke at 10. He was not expected to live past 30 without alternative treatment. He was treated at UNC in March with healthy bone marrow from his 8-year-old sister, Teairra. Now, six months later, he is free of sickle cell disease and is expected to be in school this fall.

All chimneys should be clean

Wood- and coal-burning heating systems vented by chimneys are not the only ones that should be cleaned, according to the North Carolina Chimney Sweep Association. Gas and oil chimneys require periodic maintenance, too.

The Consumer Products Safety Commission reported statistics for 1990 that indicate 4,100 residential fires that year were attributed to chimneys and chimney connectors serving gas and oil appliances.

Trained chimney sweeps can examine and clean all such chimney systems.

The North Carolina Chimney Sweep Association participates in a certification program, considered a model for the nation, in which sweeps are tested and reviewed in order to meet national standards. Consumers in the state can look for chimney sweeps who are certified, trained, insured and have references.

The association recommends that chimneys be checked and cleaned, if necessary, before the onset of the winter heating system.

For referrals to a certified sweep in your area, call the North Carolina Chimney Sweep Association at (704) 782-7213.

News of the Cooperatives

Crescent attracts the Food Lion.

Discount electric heat

Union EMC is promoting Electric Thermal Storage as an efficient way to heat homes in winter. ETS is an electric-powered unit than contains high-density ceramic bricks capable of storing heat. The unit creates and stores heat during off-peak periods when electricity costs are lower, then circulates the heat when needed. The units are connected a load management switches. Union is offering to members in its service area (Union, Cabarrus, Stanly, Rowan and Mecklenburg counties) low-interest financing and a 40 percent discount off all kilowatt-hours the unit uses. For information, call (704) 289-3145 or (800) 922-6840.

Osprey platforms at Cedar Island

Carteret-Craven Electric Cooperative this spring erected five osprey nesting platforms in Cedar Island National Wildlife Refuge in eastern Carteret County.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service thanked the co-op for the platforms placed on poles in an area where natural nesting sites for the "fish hawk" are limited. In the absence of dead trees and "snags" in aquatic environments, the osprey sometimes choose utility poles and navigational channel markers on which to build nests.

Selective treatment of power line right-of-ways

Blue Ridge Electric Membership Corporation is selectively applying a low-volume herbicide to control some vegetation growth in right-of-way areas under some power lines on the system. The measure is expected to cut in half the cost of maintaining the areas during the next several years as well as help provide reliable servic according to Blue Ridge Electric's chief executive officer Douglas W. Johnson.

Co-op staff held meetings with consumer-members and worked with news reporters prior to beginning the work. They also held an environmental roundtable to answer question of county planners and environmental leaders.

Trained technicians carrying backpacks apply a droplet mixture directly to tree sprouts in some right-of-way areas that have been mechanically cleared within the past 18 months. The mixture contains water and herbicides, similar to Roundup®, that are approved by the Environmental Protection Agency.

Only tall-growing trees and multiflora will be controlled. Wildflowers, ferns, grasses, mountain laurel, dogwoods and rhododendron will flourish as they gain access to sunlight, water and soil nutrients normally used by the trees. The resultin right-of-way will be a desirable forest border habitat for wildlife.

Blue Ridge Electric notifies affected customers in advance of the control work an uses a mechanical brush control method in lieu of the herbicide if members request

Sampson County likes South River EMC

South River EMC is ranked No. 7 in a list of the top 10 taxpayers released recently by the Sampson County tax office.

The co-op, based in Dunn, paid Sampson County $75, 844.37 in fiscal 1993-94 taxes. Its assessed valuation was reported at $9,249,313.

A community grants program

Four County EMC has begun a new program to help fund community projects as well as help its members who are in crisis situations.

"Operation Round Up" is a voluntary program which allows the co-op to round up participating consumers' bills to the next dollar. The additional change will go into a separate fund administered by the Four County Electric Care Trust board of trustees.

Community organizations that work in areas served by Four County EMC may apply for grants. The co-op serves areas in Duplin, Sampson, Bladen, Pender, Colur bus and Onslow counties. Individuals who are Four County members and in a crisi situation may be eligible for grants in special circumstances.

Welcome to Food Lion

Crescent EMC recently succeeded in gaining a hefty new member, the Food Lio supermarket at the Westport Market shopping center in Lincoln County.

Because the shopping center is located in an area not officially assigned to an el tric utility, Food Lion had a choice of a power supplier between Crescent EMC and Duke Power. Negotiations among Food Lion, the shopping center developer and Crescent's district manager Darrell Gettys (Cornelius office) and executive vice pre dent R.B. Sloan Jr. (Statesville office) concluded in Crescent's favor.

Food Lion will use a private generator to qualify for Crescent's Coincident Peak Rate and is expected to save $50,000 per year on power costs.

Are your children immunized?

Almost half of North Carolina's children are not fully immunized against such diseases as polio and measles by the time they are two years old.

Fewer than six in10 children receive ıe 15 shots they need by their second rthdays, reports the state's Immuniza- on Section. Low immunization rates ist, in part, because parents and chil- en are afraid of shots, or because of a ck of transportation, inconvenient inic hours, or the cost involved. In me cases, parents simply don't know out immunization.

A new statewide program is breaking wn these barriers.

The state- and federally-funded Uni- rsal Childhood Vaccine Distribution ogram (UCVDP) has taken care of the st problem by providing state-supplied ıccines to health care providers and eir patients at no charge. More local- ed efforts have been pecking away at her obstacles.

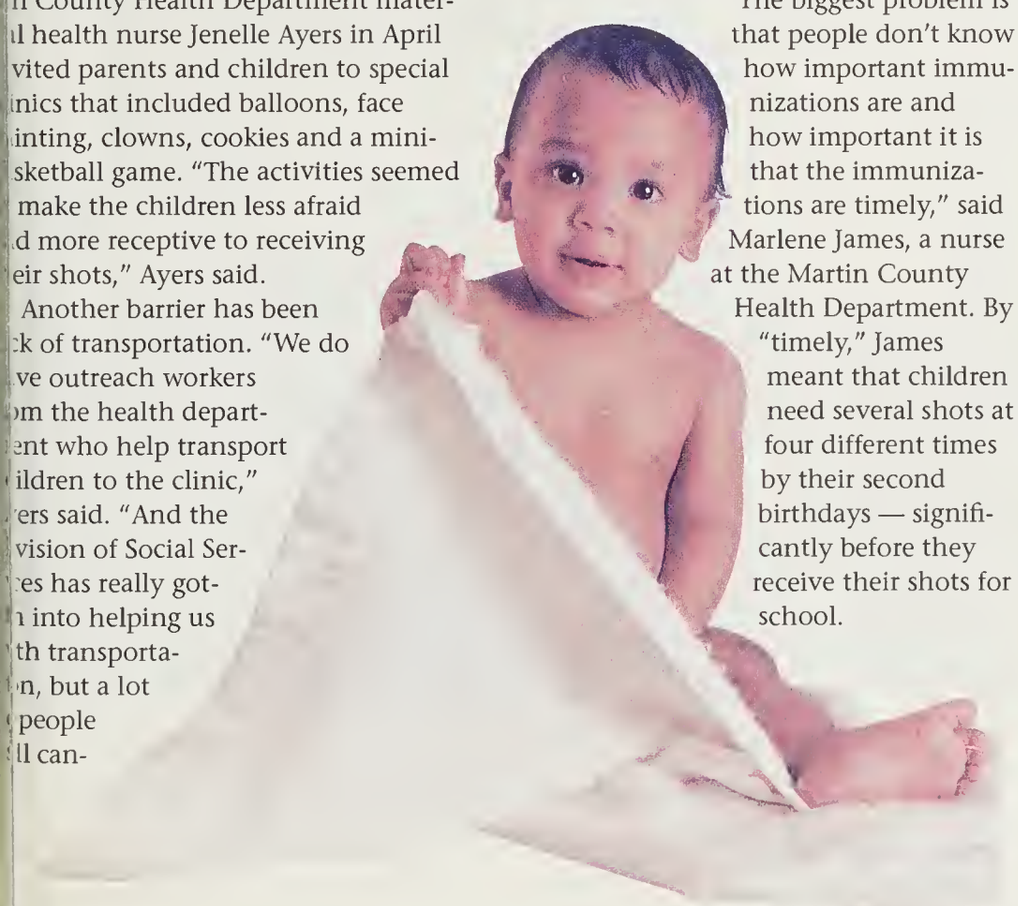
For example, the Washington County ild Advocacy Council and Washing- n County Health Department mater- l health nurse Jenelle Ayers in April vited parents and children to special inics that included balloons, face inting, clowns, cookies and a mini- sketball game. "The activities seemed make the children less afraid d more receptive to receiving eir shots," Ayers said.

Another barrier has been k of transportation. "We do ve outreach workers m the health depart- ent who help transport ildren to the clinic," ers said. "And the vision of Social Ser- es has really got- n into helping us th transporta- n, but a lot people ll can- not get here during the hours they need to."

During the April clinics in Washington County, the Plymouth Rotary Club shuttled parents and children to and from the clinics.

The statewide effort includes the following:

1. ***Universal Childhood Vaccine Distribution Program:*** *Distributes vaccines to health departments, community, migrant and rural health centers, hospitals and some private doctors' offices. The health care providers offer vaccines to children at no charge. Some private doctors' offices charge an administrative fee.*
2. ***Extended clinic hours:*** *Many health departments are establishing regular clinic hours that run through lunch, in the evenings and on weekends. For local schedules, call 1-800-FOR BABY.*
3. ***Transportation:*** *Some health departments offer bus vouchers or recruit civic groups to transport people to clinics.*
4. ***Information/education:*** *The toll-free number 1-800-FOR BABY also provides basic information about vaccines and the recommended vaccination schedule.*



"The biggest problem is that people don't know how important immunizations are and how important it is that the immunizations are timely," said Marlene James, a nurse at the Martin County Health Department. By "timely," James meant that children need several shots at four different times by their second birthdays — significantly before they receive their shots for school.

Vaccine Schedule

(Birth to 6 years)

The Center for Disease Control and Prevention recommends the following vaccination schedule for young children:

Birth
Hepatitis B (Hep B)*

2 Months
Diptheria, Tetanus, Pertussis (DTP)
Hemophilus Influenza Type B (Hib)
Oral Polio Vaccine (OPV)
Hep B

4 Months
DTP, Hib, OPV

6 Months
DTP, HiB, OPV, Hep B*

12 to 15 Months
Measles-Mumps-Rubella (MMR)
Hib
DTP**

4 to 6 Years
DTP, OPV, MMR

* An alternate schedule for hepatitis B is 2, 4 and 12 months

** Fourth dose DTP can be given as early as 12 months provided the interval since the previous dose of DTP is a least 6 months.

Joyner's Corner

by Charles Joyner

Threesome.

County Lines

There are 100 counties in North Carolina, and the names of 12 of them are scrambled in the list below. Can you unscramble them? All 100 counties are listed on most state road maps.

1. EEL
2. READ
3. NO OWLS
4. IN SLOW
5. SEND HER ON
6. INCH DORM
7. NO STAG
8. HATCH MA
9. IN TRAM
10. LANA CAME
11. COD GEM BEE
12. TREE CART

Answers on page 30

MATH WORDS

Letters have been substituted for numerals in the division problem below. Can you replace the numerals?

```
        P  I  G
     ------------
E 7 | P  O  K  E 7
      G  A
    ------------
       U  K
       U  K
    ------------
             E
             7
             E
             7
```

Answer on page 30

What's in a name?

Charles Joyne

Fate's Collision Center, on Duncan Hill Road in Hendersonville, is aptly named. Accidents will happen, as sure as fate. But the business is named for its owner, whose name is LaFayette. He is not French, however, he is English – Amos LaFayette English.

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Katrina Davies
5th grade

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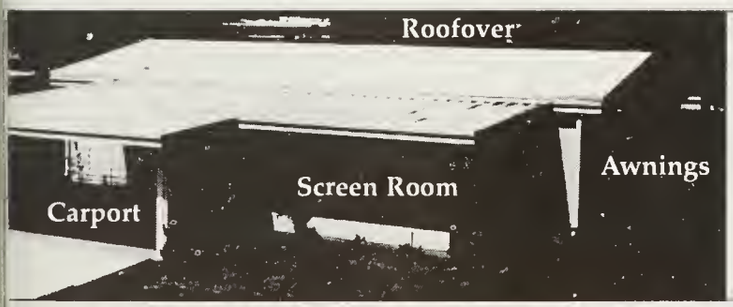

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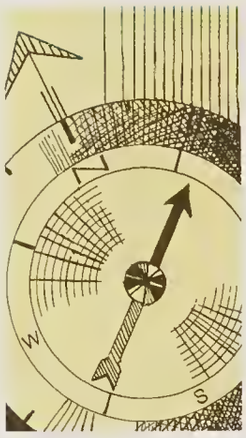

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N.C. Mountain State Fair

Sept. 7-11, Fletcher

Agricultural exhibits, livestock shows, crafts, rides and contests. A free day for senior citizens. Contact: WNC Agricultural Center, (704) 687-1414.

The Golden Gathering

Sept. 9-14, Maggie Valley

Seventh annual festival for those age 50 and over. Contact: The Golden Gathering, P.O. Box 126, Maggie Valley, N.C. 28751.

Gourd Festival

Sept. 10-11, Cary

53rd festival of fresh and dry gourds, gourd craft and hard-to-find seeds. Contact: Gourd Village Garden Club, (919) 362-4357.

Antique Engine Festival

September 10-11, Dunn

Old gas and steam powered hit 'n miss engines, tractors, cars and other equipment on display at Rhodes Pond. Live entertainment, local musicians, food and a variety of crafts. Campers welcome. Contact: Jerry S. Honeycutt, (910) 980-1039.

Family Folk Festival

Sept. 10, Anderson

International food and crafts, singers, dancers, musicians, educational displays at the Family History Center, a genealogical research facility affiliated with the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints. Contact: Darrell Malcolm, (919) 563-3516.

Fiddle & Bow Folk Fest V

Sept. 10, Winston-Salem

Music of the fiddle, guitar, banjo, keyboard, harmonica and accordion. Featuring folk guitarist Peggy Seeger, Catie Curtis, the Blue Ridge Mountain Minstrel and more. Children's activities, food and art vendors. To be held at SciWorks. Tickets are $14 in advance, $17 at the door. Contact: SciWorks, (919) 767-6730.

Seagrove Potters

Sept. 11, Asheboro

Artists from Seagrove exhibit their crafts during the Grandparent's Day celebration at the N.C. Zoological Park. One grandparent admitted free with each grandchild paying regular admission. Contact: Greta Lint, (800) 488-0444.

Golden Leaf Festival

September 15-18, Wilson

A celebration of Wilson's tobacco-rich heritage. A street festival downtown on Saturday featuring entertainment, arts, crafts, food, antique cars, tobacco contest, kid's corner, military display and barbecue cookoff. Contact: Wilson Visitors Bureau, (800) 497-7398.

Moth Boat Regatta

Sept. 17, Elizabeth City

A fundraising event for the Museum of the Albemarle. Regatta begins at 9 a.m. with races throughout the day. Boater registration fees begin at $20. A barbecue chicken dinner at 5 p.m. followed by awards at 6 p.m. Contact: Museum of the Albemarle, (919) 335-1453.

Dublin Peanut Festival

Sept. 17, Dublin

Pageant Sept. 10. Parade, food, golf tournament, crafts, car show, antique tractors and farm equipment, children's games, music, community auction and plenty of peanuts. Contact Eve Rogers, (910) 866-4311.

Tar River Festival

Sept. 17, Louisburg

At Riverbend park on Johnson, Nash and Church streets. Children's rides, games, an antique car show, gem stone mining, dancing, singing, food and more. Hours are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Contact: Mattie Kemp, (919) 496-3056.

Flat River engines and tractors

Sept. 17-18, Roxboro

Old engines, tractors, thrashing machine, corn husking, silage cutting, hay-baling, meal grinding and wood sawing, arts, crafts, blue grass music and an antique tractor pull. At Optimist Park. Call (910) 364-2364.

Salem Celebration

Sept. 18-24, Winston-Salem

Annual seminar and exhibit of the American Needlepoint Guild at the Benton Convention Center. Contact: Anne Carson, (919) 787-2707.

N.C. Christmas Trees

Sept. 16-17, Boone

Summer association meeting, trade show and farm tour. Over 40 vendors at the Trillium Room, Broyhill Inn. A tree and wreath contest and workshops on collections, migrant labor, integrated pest management, wreaths and roping and trucking. Saturday, a scheduled farm tour with equipment and cultural practice demonstrations. Contact: N.C. Christmas Tree Association, (704) 262-5826.

"Kitchens and Moore"

Sept. 22, Pinehurst

Kitchen tour in the Pinehurst area of Moore County. One kitchen was built in 1700, three are very new, and two are remodeled. Tickets are $10. Contact: Carolyn Register, (910) 295-2352.

Gem and Mineral Show

Sept. 24-25, Hiddenite

A reconstructed emerald pocket that shows how emeralds are found is on display. North Carolina is the only place on this continent where emeralds have been mined. Contact: Patty Arnold, (704) 465-2769.

Indian Summer Festival

Sept. 24, Hertford

NC arts, crafts, food, bands, antique show and sale, sidewalk sales, antique car show, dancing and entertainment. Contact: Perquimans County Chamber of Commerce, (919) 426-5657.

Confederate Days

Sept. 24-25, Wake Forest

War between the states historic encampment and "Battle of Bethel" re-enactment. Contact: Jack Travis, (919) 556-1874.

Farm Toy Show

Sept. 23-24, Elizabeth City

Over 20 vendors featuring collectible farm toys including tractors, trucks and farm equipment. Customization available. At the Kermit E. White Center, Elizabeth City State University. Contact: Bradley Jennings, (919) 264-2295.

Southern Ideal Home Show

Sept. 22-25, Raleigh

For homeowners and do-it-yourselfers. Ideas, products and information on building, remodeling and decorating. Information on windows, flooring, furniture, heating and cooling, financing and insurance. "How-to" clinics and money-saving show specials. At the N.C. State Fairgrounds. Contact: Southern Shows, (704) 376-6594.

Harvest Day

Sept. 24, Windsor

Tours, crafts, special exhibits and events for the whole family at Hope Plantation. Contact: Historic Hope Plantation, (919) 794-3140.

Northfest '94

Oct. 1, Cornelius

5th annual community and business celebration for North Mecklenburg in a new and bigger location: Jetton Park. Events include 5K run, children's art festival, arts and crafts, local and regional entertainment. New this year is a Fireman's Relay. Headliner bands are Maurice Williams & The Zodiacs and Billy Scott and The Prophets. Contact: Northfest, (704) 892-1922.

Swampfest

Oct. 1, Gatesville

Crafts, food vendors, tractor pulls, molasses cooking, bands, entertainers, a street dance and more. Contact: Olethia W. Taylor, (919) 357-0126.

Quilt show

Oct. 1-2, Hickory

10th anniversary quilt show sponsored by Catawba Valley Quilter's Guild at the Clement Center on Hwy. 321. Contact: the Guild, (704) 294-2130.

Campbell Folk School Festival

Oct. 1-2, Brasstown

Traditional and contemporary weaving, blacksmithing, pottery, woodwork, jewelry and basketry representing the work of 75-100 craftspeople. Old-time, bluegrass and folk music on two stages. Country dancing, games and a petting zoo. Contact: the John C. Campbell Folk School, (800) 365-5724.

Ongoing

Arts & Science Center

Through Sept. 18, Statesville

Featuring the Iredell Photography Club exhibit and pottery by Judy McNeill. Contact: Rita Rhodes, (704) 873-4734.

Historic Fashion Dolls

Through Sept. 25, Southern Pines

Fashion dolls in costumes from the 1760s to the 1920s at the Campbell House Galleries. Contact: Arts Council of Moore County, (910) 692-6947.

SECCA Exhibits

Through Sept. 28, Winston-Salem

The "Artist and the Community" series features the work of Fred Wilson. "Accounts Southeast" series features the work of Jim Hirschfield. Contact: SECCA, (919) 725-1904.

Local photographs

Through September, West Jefferson

The Gallery at Ashe Arts Center presents "EXPOSED!", an exhibit of photographs by local artists. Contact: the Arts Center, (910) 246-ARTS.

Deadlines

Deadlines for submitting notices to "Here, There and Everywhere."

November issue ....Sept. 25
December issue.....Oct. 25
January issue.....Nov. 25

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Hank's Gardening Guide

by Hank Smith

The transition to autumn.

Rose care

For a good crop of fall roses, fungicide sprays for control of black spot and powdery mildew should be continued every seven to 10 days. Be especially alert for mildew, which is prevalent at this time of year. Many experienced rose growers look forward to even more perfect blooms in autumn.

Prune hydrangeas

If you prune bigleaf hydrangeas (H. macrophylla) in late summer or early fall, take care not to interfere with next year's crop of showy blue, pink, or white flower heads. This hydrangea blooms on the tips of least year's growth. Removing this growth will make it impossible for the plant to form blooms.

When pruning, cut out old canes (stems) containing faded flowers. Leave all new growth shoots undisturbed. Should the weather forecast be for heavy freezes, give some protection to the clumps, or the fragile terminal flowerbuds will be killed.

Planting trees and shrubs

You can save money by selecting the smaller sizes of trees and shrubs. A 6-to-8-foot tree will be as large as a 10-to-12- foot tree in five years. Eighteen-to-24-inch shrubs will be as large as 3-to-4-foot shrubs in the same period of time.

If you splurge on a few large size shrubs, place them in the front foundation planting if that area needs plants. They will give an instant "settled and mature" finish to the landscape planting.

Multiply ground covers

Now's a good time to divide ground covers such as ajuga (bugleweed), mondo grass, liriope and pachysandra. Use a sharp knife to cut plants apart. Be sure to get a portion of roots with each division. Use the divisions to fill in bare spots in existing plantings or to start new plantings. Replant in well-prepared soil. Set divisions at same depth they were previously growing. Water well after planting.

Start cole crops

The majority of fall vegetable garden plants are members of the cabbage family, often known as the cole crops. These include cabbage, cauliflower, kale, collards, broccoli, brussels sprouts and kohlrabi. Most cole crops should be started from transplants. Purchase those that are young and vigorous. Avoid any that are overgrown; they may be stunted. Also, spinach, lettuce and collards can be planted now. The amount to plant depends upon the size of the family.

Remove garden clutter

Warmer months of summer now undergo a transition as they give way to the cooler months of autumn. There are many garden chores to be done. Garden uncluttering is one, planting is another.

Perennials divided and transplanted now have time to develop good new root growth before cold weather slows them down. Now also is the time to get a head start against next year's crop of summer weeds. Destroy those still in the garden before they produce seed. Feed, water, and mow lawns as needed.

Hedges

If you have a clipped evergreen hedge, it's time to cut it back for the last time this season. Pruning now gives the plants several weeks to produce a few inches of new foliage before winter halts their growth. If you prune later you'll have to look at the browned, cut edges of stems and foliage throughout winter months.

Trim out dead wood, and remove seedlings that do not belong, such as elms, althea, privet, mulberry and honeysuckle. These often are the result of seeds scattered by birds who visit the hedge.

Sedums for poor soil and slopes

Sedum is an excellent ground cover on poor soil in full sun. Plants secure themselves to steep banks, rocks, and walls. The name sedum is from sedo ("to sit") and refers to the manner in which plants fix themselves to the growing area. They propagate remarkably well. The smallest scape will root itself where it falls, starting a new plant.

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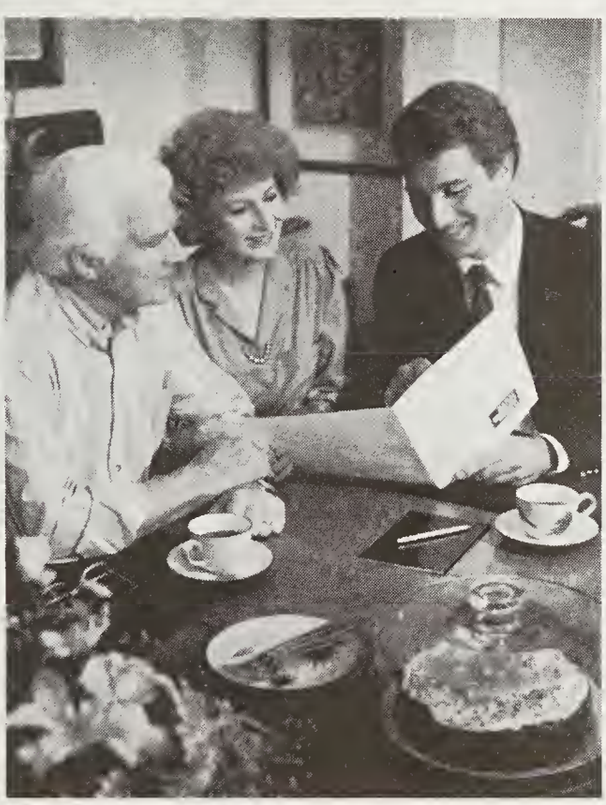

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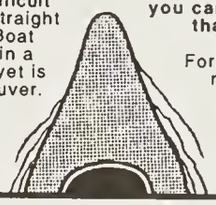

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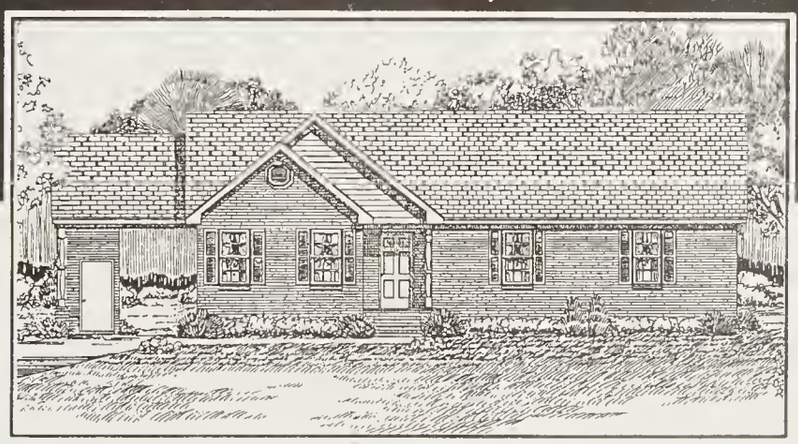

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Journal

by Owen Bishop

Some Pender County businesses still close on Wednesday afternoon, carrying on a long-standing Eastern North Carolina tradition.

Location filming sets stage for culture clash

The young man was part of a film crew preparing to shoot early morning scenes around the courthouse square in Burgaw, which had been transformed for the occasion into a Mississippi community in the 1950s.

He seemed rather antsy as he approached the oldtimer, who was part of a small crowd of onlookers eagerly awaiting the director's call for "action."

"Can you tell me where I would find the nearest bank?" he asked.

The old man pointed across the square and said "Over there on the corner."

"I need to get a check cashed," said the younger man, pulling a checkbook from his designer jeans and starting toward the bank.

"Hey," the old man called out. "You can't."

"Why not?"

"Not open."

"When do they open?"

"Nine o'clock."

The young man frowned, clearly not pleased. "We're going to start shooting before 9, so I'll just have to take care of it when we break for lunch."

"Can't."

"Why not?"

"They're closed everyday from 1 to 3," the old man said.

"What kind of bank is it, anyway? That means I have to get cash after 3 o'clock!"

"Can't."

"Why not?"

"The bank's like a lot of places 'round here. Closed every Wednesday afternoon."

The frustrated young man mouthed an expletive, raising his hands, palms up and then quickly dropping them to his sides. He said, "So what the hell do you do then?"

The old man smiled as he answered: "Anything we want to."

When an eyewitness described this encounter for me, I thought it was an amusing example of clashing cultures —a vignette that a clever scriptwriter might have used effectively for another day of on-location shooting. But it also struck a chord with me because I can relate to both the characters.

Like the old man, I have stirred the frustrations of younger people by expecting them to quietly accept practices I take for granted. I've also found myself in the center of cultural clashes —when some of our Southern traditions would thoroughly perplex Yankee friends or when American practices would make absolutely no sense to foreign visitors.

I've also thrown up my hands in frustration when confronted with inconvenient obstacles or arbitrary rules —especially if I consider them outdated.

As a matter of fact, I almost reached that stage when I needed money while traveling around the state recently. I had no concern about when the banks would be open because I rely almost exclusively on automatic teller machines for routine cash flow. But I couldn't find one anywhere. Even the branches of my own bank had no ATMs.

Fortunately, I was seeking legal tender during normal banking hours and one of those branches accommodated me the old fashioned way: across an inside counter with service from another kind of teller, a graying older woman who gave me a cheerful greeting. I'd dealt with bank computers for so long I'd forgotten that the human touch can make these transactions far more pleasant.

The Burgaw encounter also surprised me because I thought competition had long ago killed the Eastern North Carolina tradition of closing stores on Wednesday afternoons. I understand that it survives in Pender County now only for some businesses but when I was a boy it was a common practice for most stores

in Down East communities, including my hometown of Plymouth.

I'm not sure if it applied year-round but I know it was observed when I was out of school during the summer. My Dad worked at a furniture store, and I could count on helping him work around the house or in the garden every Wednesday afternoon. The duty was usually fairly light but I didn't like the weekly obligation involved. Yet I'm glad we could share those hot and sweaty hours together because I suppose they gave us a chance for what's now called "male bonding."

If my Dad's work schedule (and mine!) hadn't been affected, I might never have noticed the stores' shorter Wednesday hours because I generally ventured into "downtown" only for brief visits to the furniture store or to see the latest Hollywood epics. If I'd been free, I could have taken in a movie even on a Wednesday afternoon.

I never dreamed then that business practices in our corner of the world would ever affect anyone involved in the filming of a real, honest-to-gosh movie. Of course, I also never dreamed that North Carolina locations would ever routinely show up in major films and TV shows, as they do now.

Today's banker's hours

In the interest of accuracy, I made a few calls to verify the schedule for the Burgaw bank in question, and I learned that the local man misled the visitor about the bank's hours.

By all accounts, the bank must have been a branch of First Citizens Bank, which is open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. every Monday through Thursday, and until 6 p.m. every Friday, according to a bank spokesperson

"We haven't closed at mid-day for several years, and I don't know when we last closed on Wednesday afternoon," she said.

Officials at the bank's Raleigh headquarters said only a handful of branches in rural areas continue to close their lobbies from 1 to 3 p.m. Even then, they continue to serve customers through their drive-through windows.

Maybe the old guy hadn't kept up with the bank's latest schedule. Then again, maybe he had —but he wanted to amuse himself at the stranger's expense. Either way, it makes a great story.

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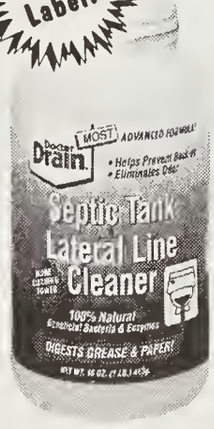

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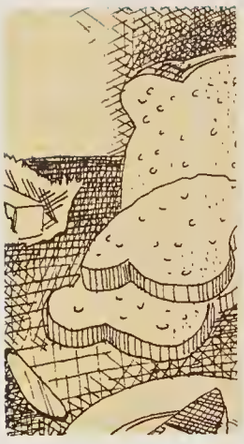

Easy breakfast recipes for entertaining guests.

Oven-baked French Toast

Submitted by Glynda S. Joyce, Sparta/Vero Beach

1 loaf French bread (or regular sliced)
1 cup light brown sugar
½ cup butter (or margarine)
2 teaspoons corn syrup
6 eggs
2 cups milk
1½ teaspoons vanilla flavoring

Place sugar, butter and corn syrup in small pan and cook until syrupy. Pour into greased 9-by-13-inch baked dish. Slice French bread ¾-inch thick and arrange in pan over syrup mixture. Beat together eggs, milk and vanilla flavoring. Pour over bread. Cover pan and refrigerate overnight. Bake uncovered at 350-375 degrees for 40-45 minutes. *(This makes its own syrup, but it can also be served with maple or blueberry syrup on the side.)*

Variation: Stuffed French Toast

1 pound loaf bread, cubed
1 8-ounce cream cheese, cubed
Mix together: 8 eggs, ⅓ cup honey, 1⅓ cup milk

Layer half the bread cubes in a greased 9-by-13-inch pan. Top with all the cubed cream cheese. Add the other half of the bread cubes. Pour egg mixture over all. Cover and refrigerate overnight. Bake at 350 degrees for 35 minutes. Serve with syrup.

Want to share recipes?

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